

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, as amended, still remain in the patent application.

Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define the invention and cure the defect alluded to by the Examiner. As rejected by the Examiner and affirmed by the Board, the claim language inadvertently recited that the "circular shaped member abutting the inner surface of the air cap." Applicant acknowledged that this error was inadvertent and attempted to cure the defect by filing a proposed amendment, which the Examiner refused to enter. The Board noted the proposed amendment and used it as an argument to find agreement with the Examiner and hence, affirmed the § 112 rejection.

The purpose of the amended claim is to cure the inadvertent defect. As was stated therein and repeated herein the error was notably inadvertent since these elements are clearly defined in the specification on page 15, lines 3-15, quoted below for the convenience of the Examiner.

..."The fluid tip element 70 includes a main body 78 which is circular in cross section and is dimensioned so that its diameter is substantially equal to the inner diameter of the tubular portion 46 and several (up to four) segments or secants to the circular cross section are milled out or cut at the larger diameter portion 80 to form flats that leave a gap between the fluid tip element 70 and the annular passage 66 (see Fig. 3). This gap serves to meter, direct and atomize the air in the annular passage 66. As best seen in Fig. 3, the aft end 82 of the fluid tip element 70 extends axially rearwardly and is threaded to complement the threads formed on the end of the inner tubular member 58 to form a tight fit and communicate the central orifice 84 with the passage 86 formed in the fluid tip element 70 which, in turn, communicates with the passage 88 of the inner tubular member 58 for flowing resin to discharge through the central orifice 84."

The drawings have been corrected as listed below:

Fig. 1 - The reference numeral 147 and lead line have been deleted; Ref. numeral 17 has been added;

Fig. 2 - The ref. numeral 17 has been added.

Fig. 3 - The ref. numerals 98, 72 and 60 have been added

Fig. 4 - The plume A has been changed to show it is a convergent plume; referencen numeral 70 and 106 have been removed and 90 and 116 substituted therefor, and 117 has been added.

Fig. 6A - The plume has been changed to be consistent with Fig. 4.

Fig. 7 - Reference numerals 17 and 149 have been added.

Fig. 8 - Reference numerals 26 and 182 have been added and 184 and 183 have been substituted for 185 and 182.

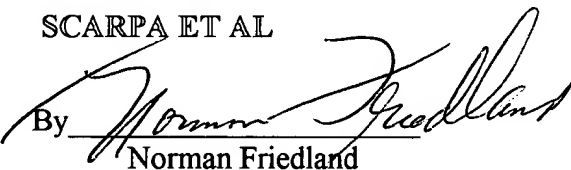
Fig. 9 - Reference letter a has been added to 14, 70, 166 and 90 and 220, 224 and 162a have been added.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed this amendment cures the defect of the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejection and that the this application is in condition for allowance and the allowance thereof is respectfully requested..

Respectively submitted,

SCARPA ET AL

By


Norman Friedland
Attorney of Record

11300 U.S. Highway One, Suite 400
North Palm Beach, FL 33408
(561) 626-4111
Date: March 25, 2003